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SERIES

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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG PRESENTS:

# KNUCKLES

## THE ECHIDNA

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

WHO  
IS  
**MONK?**

--AND  
HOW IS HE  
CONNECTED  
TO KNUX'S  
PAST?!

DIRECT EDITION

GALIA  
PENDER'S

# GNUCKLES

## BOOK THIRTY KING OF THE HILL PART ONE OF THREE

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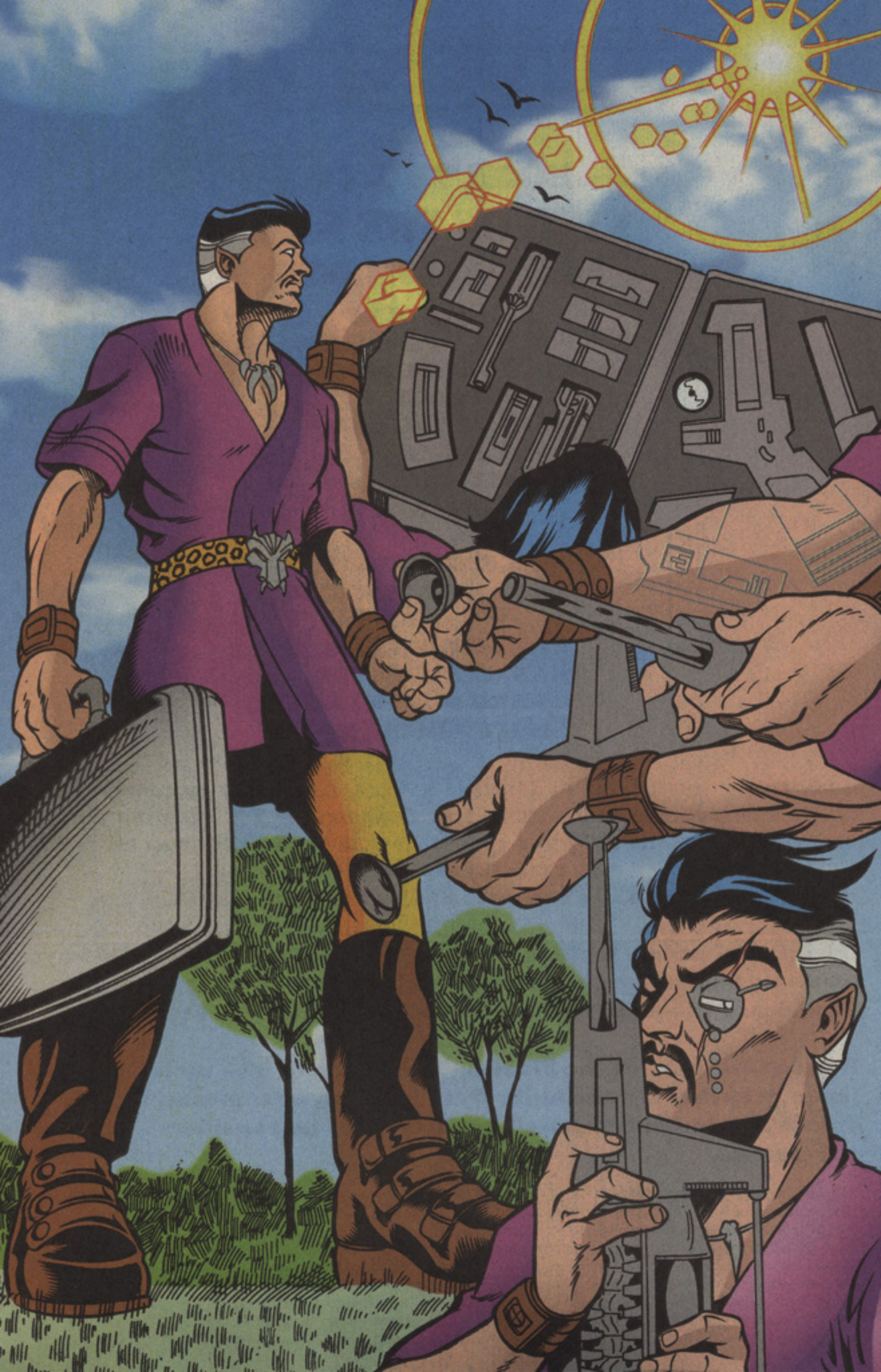
**BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN FROM WITHIN!**

**ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... GNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!**

**One of the hardest facts of life to deal with is that there is always someone bigger, tougher, braver and smarter than you are. We all experience the pain of this particular learning process.**

**Even a Guardian of the Floating Island has to face up to the challenge, whether it's the bully from his past, or someone new with a desire to measure himself against what he considers a worthy adversary...**

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AKKKK!

NOW THAT WE'VE MET ONE OF THE MAJOR PLAYERS OF OUR TALE, LET US NOW TURN OUR ATTENTION TO YET ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL ABOUT TO STAKE HIS CLAIM TO FAME.

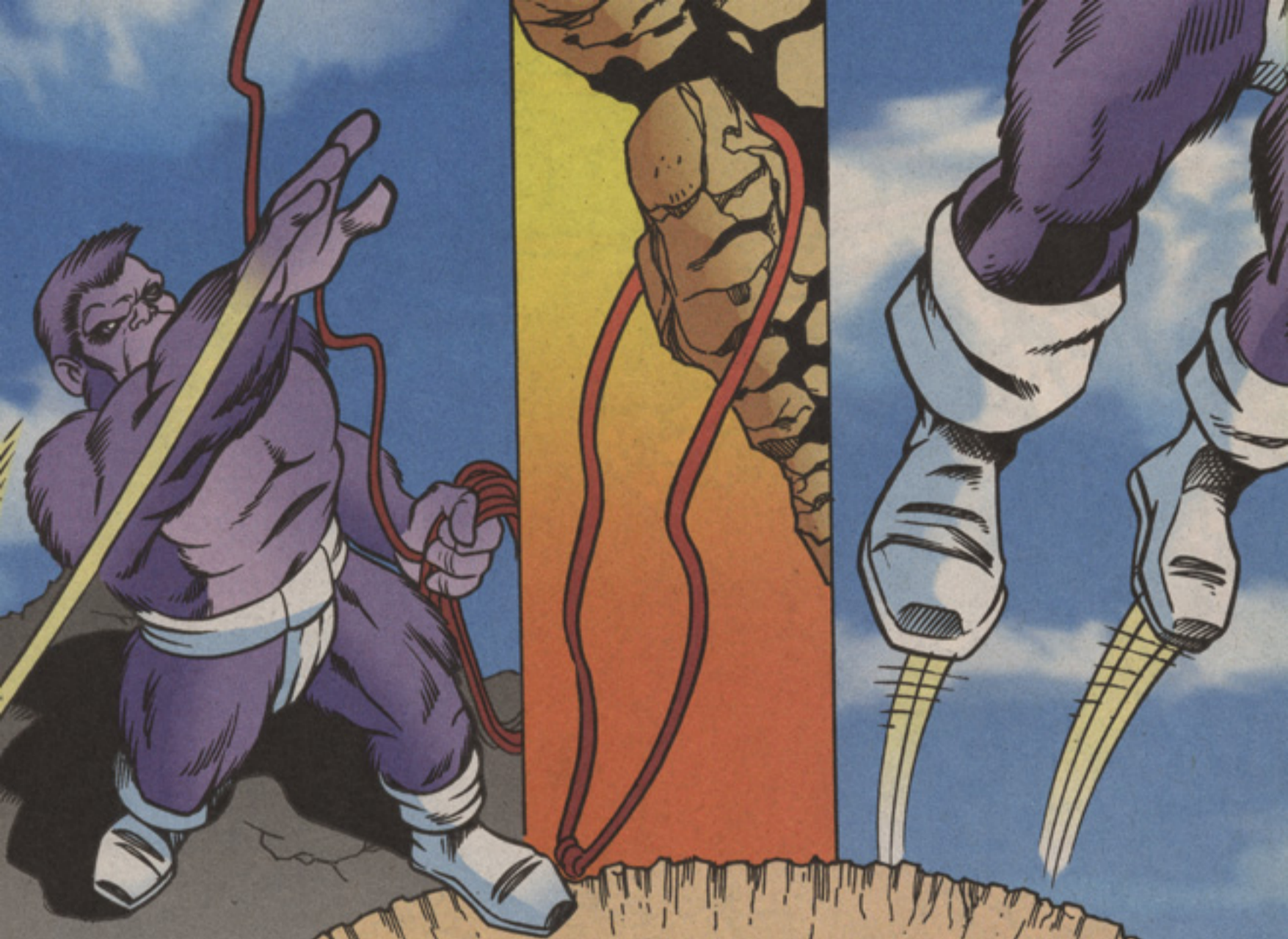
HERE, ATOP MOUNT KOBILUNJARO, LOCATED IN THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE OF MOBIUS, WE FIND AN OBVIOUSLY DETERMINED INDIVIDUAL--A GORILLA WITH AN ATTITUDE, YOU MIGHT SAY--

--AND WOE BE TO ANYONE WHO GETS IN HIS WAY!

# BAD TO THE DONE

CHAPTER ONE





THUS, AS THE FLOATING ISLAND SOARS OVERHEAD, CONTINUING  
ALONG ITS TRAJECTORY OVER THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET,  
OUR DETERMINED FRIEND CLINGS ONTO HIS LIFELINE,  
IGNORING THE STRAIN OF GRAVITY, THE CHILL IN THE  
HIGH-ALTITUDE AIR AND THE SHORTNESS OF BREATH,  
THE LONE FIGURE STRUGGLES IN HIS CLIMB  
TOWARDS THE UNDERBELLY OF THE AIRBORNE  
LANDMASS, NEVER PAUSING EVEN FOR  
A MOMENT IN HIS SINGULAR EFFORTS  
TO REACH HIS DESIRED GOAL...



**FINALLY!**

**AFTER ALL THIS TIME--**

**--I'M HOME AGAIN!**

**TOP OF THE WORLD, MA!!!**

**THE MONK IS BACK!!!**

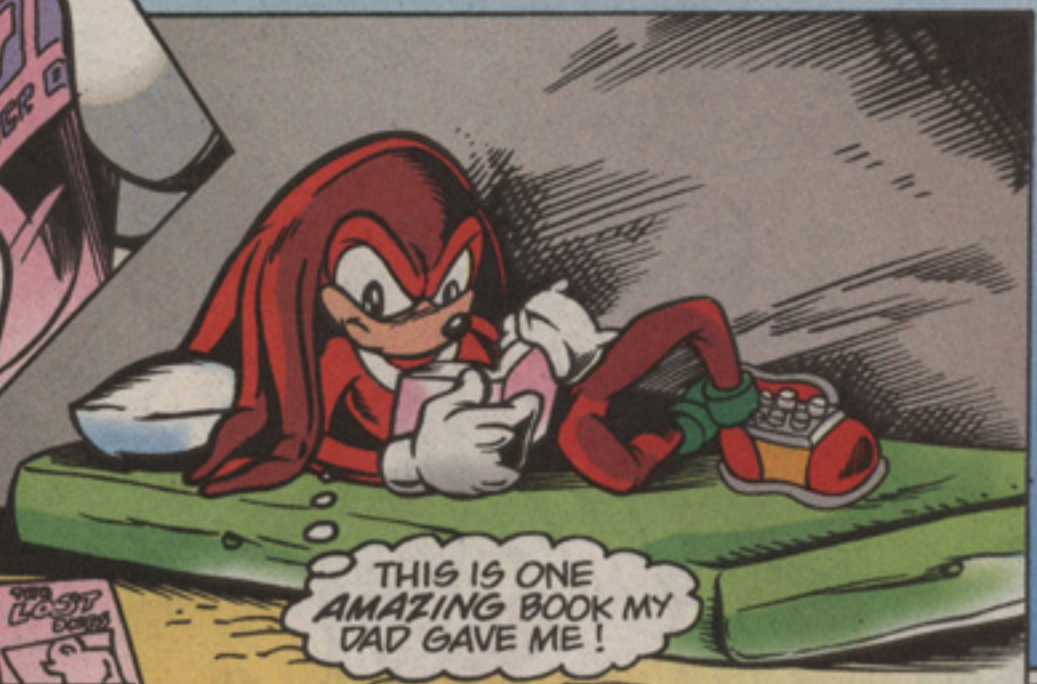
**ONLY THIS TIME--**

**--AIN'T NO FREAKIN' ECHIDNA GONNA GET THE BEST OF ME!!!**

**THAT MEANS YOU, KNUCKLES!!! YOU HEAR ME ?!!**

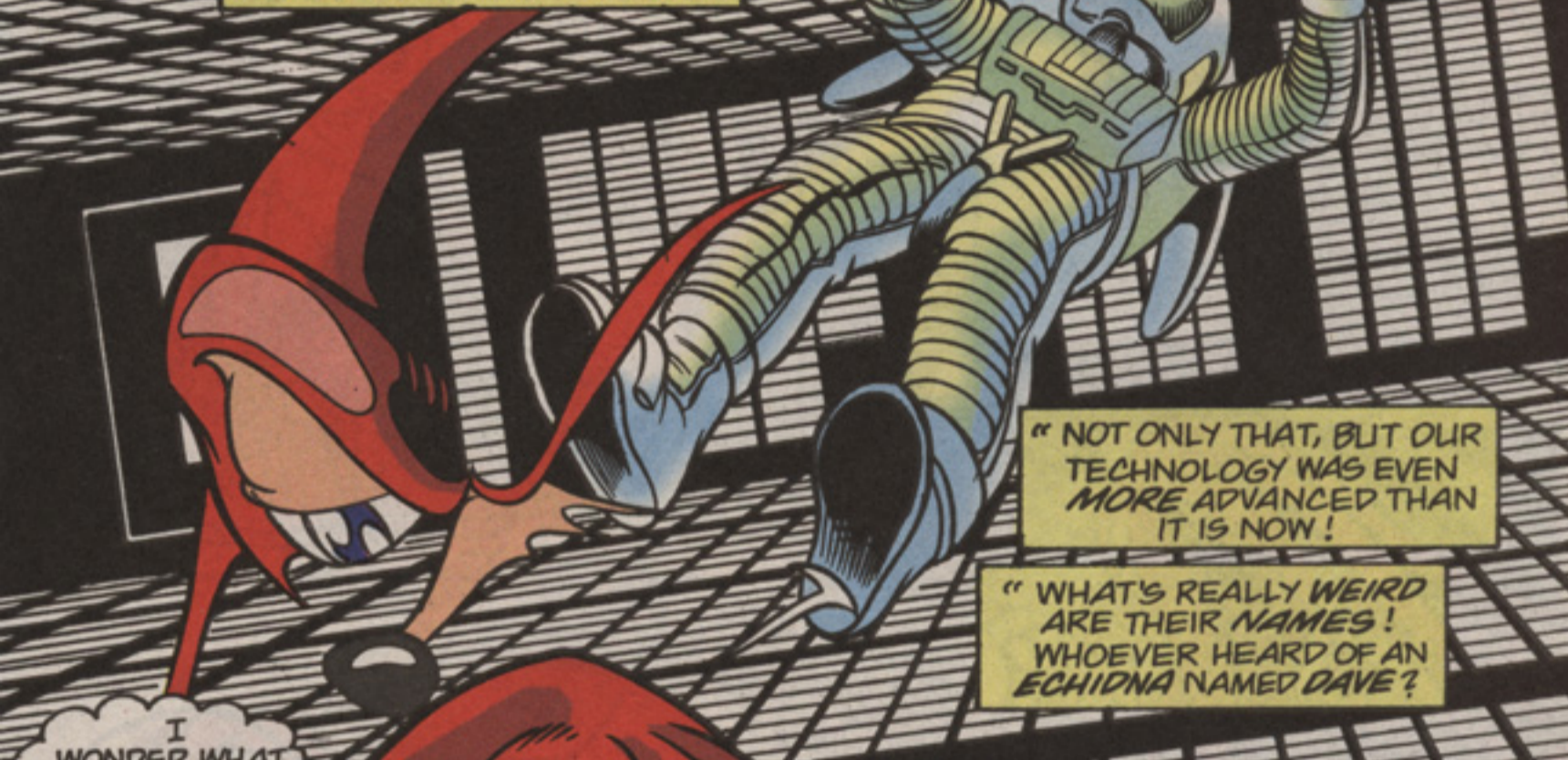


"ESPECIALLY YOU!!!"



THIS IS ONE AMAZING BOOK MY DAD GAVE ME!

"HARD TO BELIEVE OVER A THOUSAND YEARS AGO THE ECHIDNA WAS ONCE A RACE OF SPACE EXPLORERS, LOOKING TO UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF FAR-OFF WORLDS LIKE SATURN AND EUROPA."



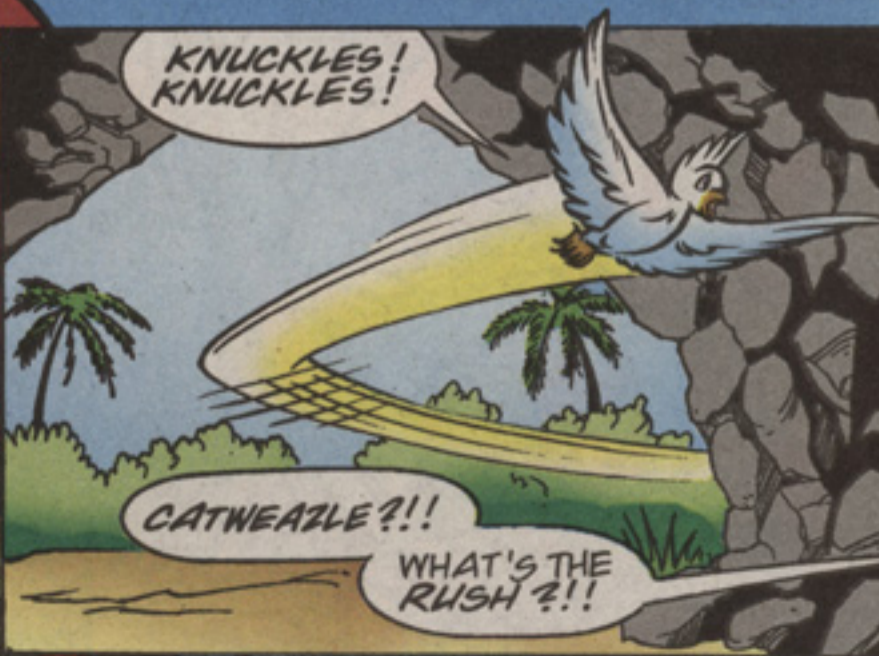
"NOT ONLY THAT, BUT OUR TECHNOLOGY WAS EVEN MORE ADVANCED THAN IT IS NOW!"

"WHAT'S REALLY WEIRD ARE THEIR NAMES! WHOEVER HEARD OF AN ECHIDNA NAMED DAVE?"

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MONOLITH, THOUGH--

SQUAAK!  
SQUAAK!

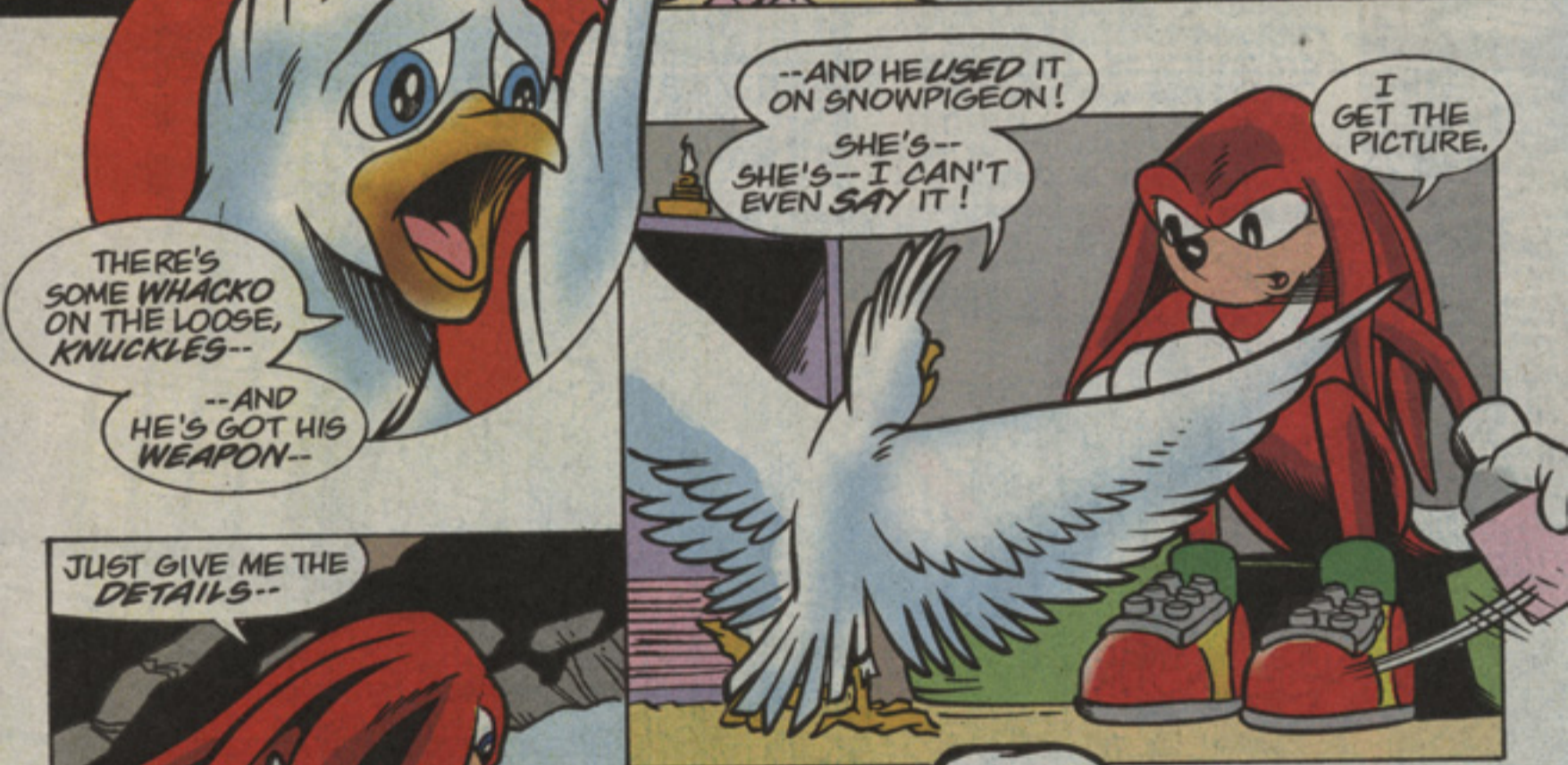
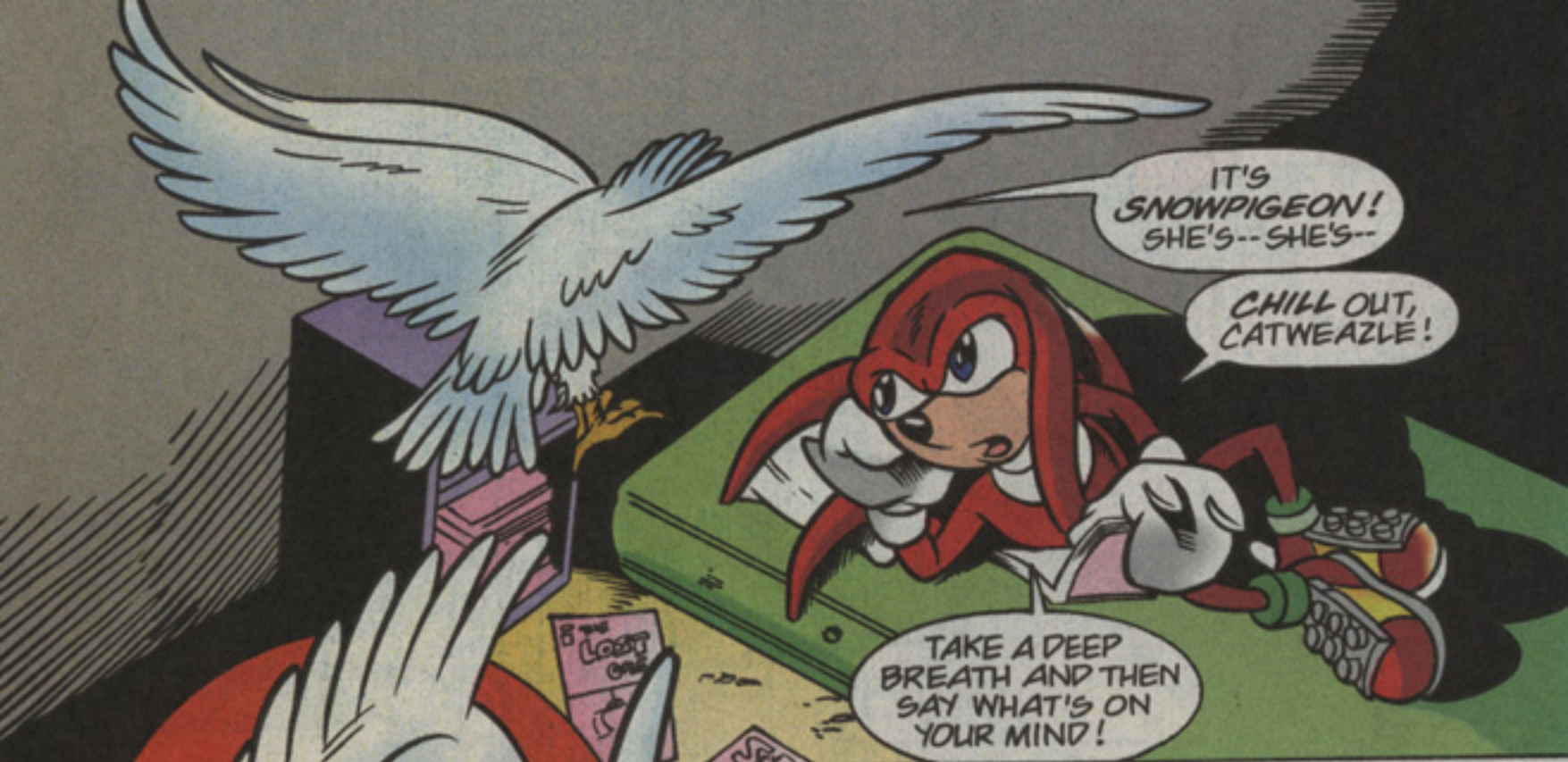
WHA--!



KNUCKLES!  
KNUCKLES!

CATWEAZLE?!!

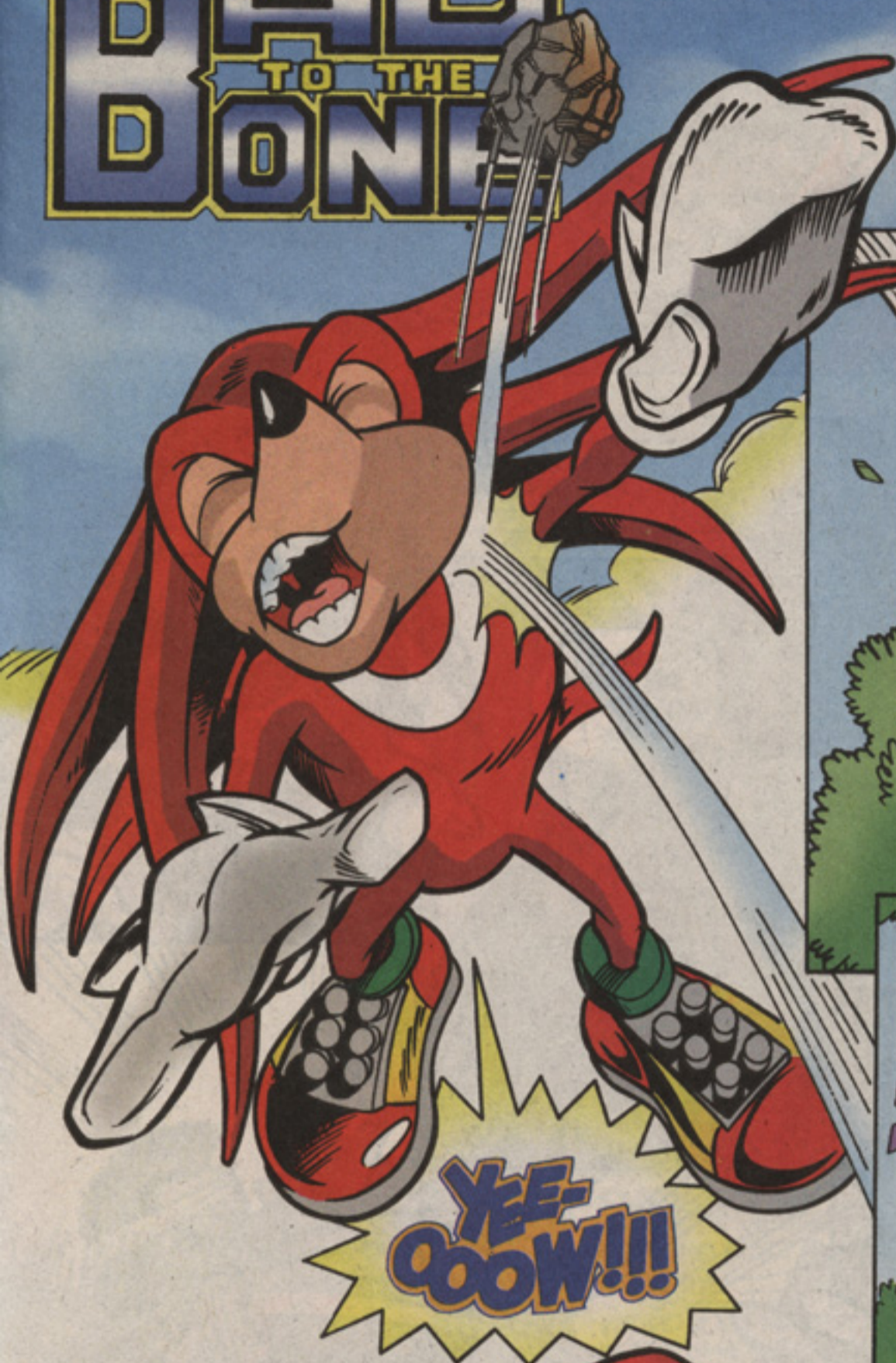
WHAT'S THE RUSH?!!



# DAD TO THE BONE

CHAPTER TWO

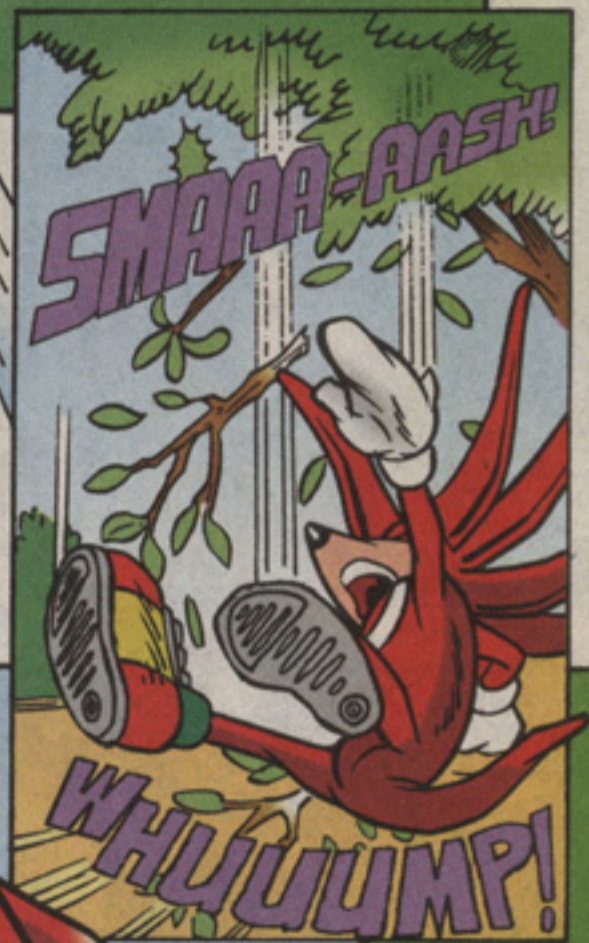
WITHIN MOMENTS  
WHILE GLIDING  
OVER THE TREETOPS  
OF THE FOREST...



**YEE-  
OOOW!!!**



**KRAASHH!**



**SMAAA-AASH!**

**WHUUUMP!**

IT FIGURES!

I GO LOOKING  
FOR SOMEONE--

--AND  
THEY FIND ME  
INSTEAD--

MISS  
ME?

WHO--?

**MONK!**

"TALK ABOUT UNHAPPY MEMORIES."

"I USED TO BE QUITE THE RUNT, KEEPING TO MYSELF--"

HEEEY!!!

"--EXCEPT FOR ONE JERK WHO HAD IT IN FOR ME!"

GIVE ME BACK MY YO-YO, MONK!

YOU WANT IT, KNUCKLES?

TRY AND TAKE IT FROM ME!

THAT TEARS IT, BUB!

YOU'VE PUSHED THE WRONG ECHIDNA FOR THE LAST TIME!

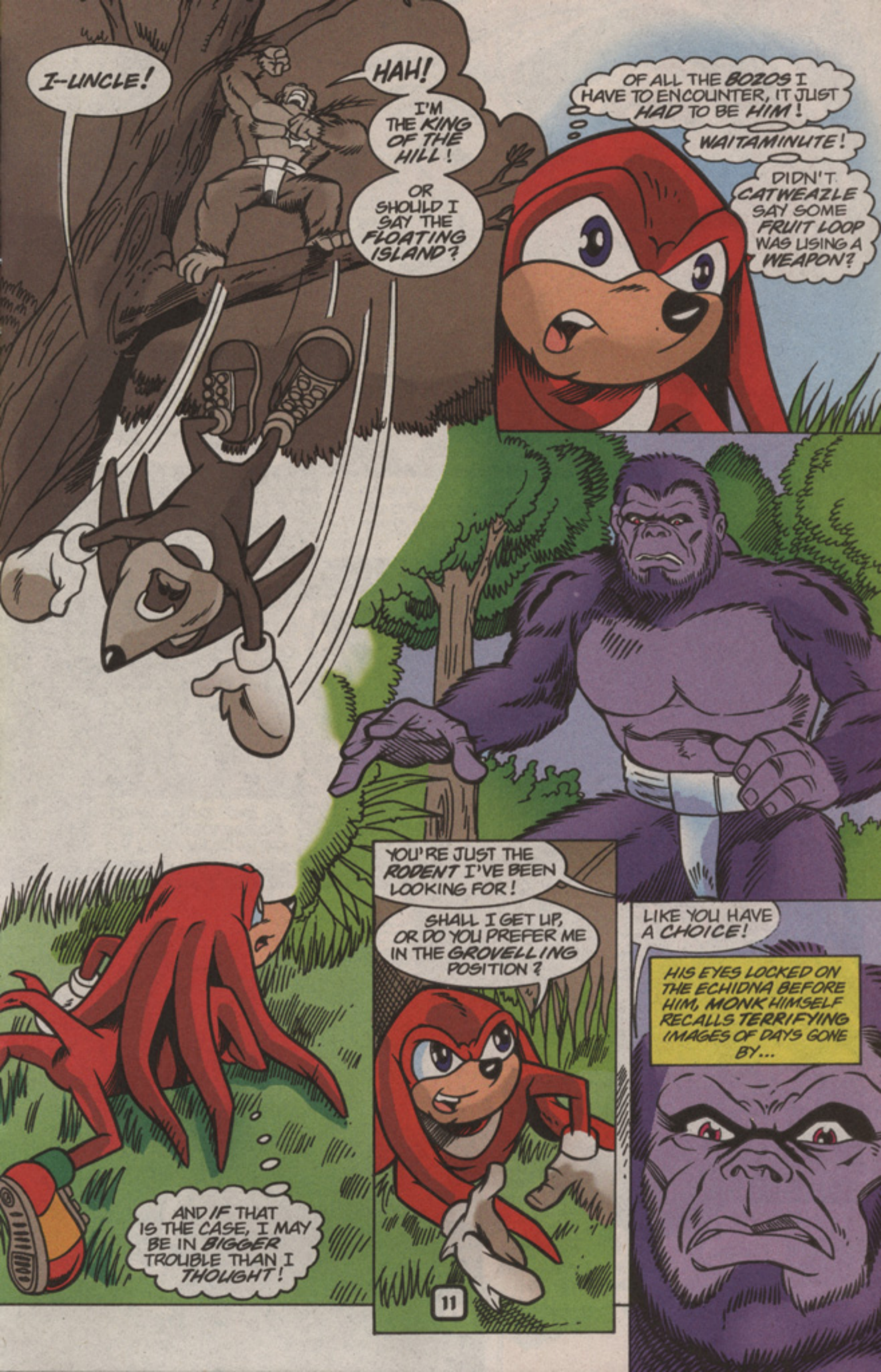
OH, YEAH?

LET'S SEE YOU HANDLE THIS!

I AIN'T LETTIN' GO OF YOU UNTIL I HEAR YOU SCREAM "UNCLE!"

UGH!

I--I--



I-UNCLE!

HAH!

I'M THE KING OF THE HILL!

OR SHOULD I SAY THE FLOATING ISLAND?

OF ALL THE BOZOS I HAVE TO ENCOUNTER, IT JUST HAD TO BE HIM!

WAITAMINUTE!

DIDN'T CATWEAZLE SAY SOME FRUIT LOOP WAS USING A WEAPON?

YOU'RE JUST THE RODENT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

SHALL I GET UP, OR DO YOU PREFER ME IN THE GROVELLING POSITION?

LIKE YOU HAVE A CHOICE!

HIS EYES LOCKED ON THE ECHIDNA BEFORE HIM, MONK HIMSELF RECALLS TERRIFYING IMAGES OF DAYS GONE BY...

AND IF THAT IS THE CASE, I MAY BE IN BIGGER TROUBLE THAN I THOUGHT!



HIS MEMORY FLASHES BACK TO THE VERY INSTANT HE FOUND HIMSELF JOLTED FROM HIS SLUMBER...



UNABLE TO MOVE HIS LIMBS AND FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, MONK COULD ONLY CRY OUT AS THE MYSTERIOUS ROBED FIGURES CARRIED HIM FROM THE FOREST DURING THE STILL OF THE NIGHT...



...AND TOOK HIM TO THE VERY EDGE OF THE ISLAND ITSELF...

STRUGGLING MIGHTILY AGAINST THE CURRENT, MONK WAS FINALLY ABLE TO FREE HIMSELF FROM HIS BONDS...

...EVENTUALLY SWIMMING TO SHORE WHERE HE VOWED THAT ONE DAY HE WOULD RETURN!

SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY, BLID--

--LET BYGONES BE BYGONES?

WHAAAAAM!

YOU'LL NEVER WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE THAT WAY, MAN!

YEAH?



WHO SAYS A LEFT JAWBREAKER CAN'T MAKE A POINT?

YOU HAVE TO LAND ONE FIRST, BOZO--

--LIKE SO!



MY@#\$.!&\* NOSE!!!

YOU BUSTED UP MY FREAKIN' NOSE!!!

I DIDN'T HIT YOU THAT HARD!

HOW ABOUT WE NOW TALK INSTEAD OF BUSTING HEADS?



YOU WANT TO TALK?



AFTER I FIRST WRING YOUR NECK!





WUUMPABUMPA!  
WUUMPABUMPA!

SAY YOUR PRAYERS--

--IF YA KNOW ANY!

I'M NOT TEN YEARS OLD ANY-MORE, BUB!

HOLD IT!

HEAR THAT?

HEAR WHAT?

KRAK



I DON'T HEAR NOTHING!

YOU'RE JUST STALLING YOUR OWN FUNERAL!

IF YOU DON'T GET OFF OF ME--

"--MINE WON'T BE  
THE ONLY ONE  
TAKING PLACE!"

THE ACTION IS ONLY GETTING STARTED...  
**TO BE CONTINUED!**



# ESPION THE CHAMELEON

CHAPTER ONE

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF  
ECHIDNAOPOLIS...

WHOA!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING  
EVERYWHERE FOR  
YOU GUYS!

I FIGURED IF I  
COULDN'T FIND **KNUCKLES**,  
THEN AT LEAST YOU'D KNOW  
WHERE HE IS!

SORRY TO  
DISAPPOINT,  
JULIE-SU--

--BUT I HAVEN'T  
SEEN ANY SIGN OF  
HIM THE LAST FEW  
DAYS!

I'LL JUST  
HAVE TO KEEP  
SEARCHING  
THEN!

SAY!  
WHO'S YOUR  
NEW FRIEND  
HERE?

OH,  
THAT'S RIGHT!  
YOU'VE  
NEVER MET  
RAY!

JULIE-SU, MEET **RAY  
THE SQUIRREL**! MIGHTY  
RECENTLY SAVED HIM \* AND  
BROUGHT HIM BACK HERE  
JUST YESTERDAY.

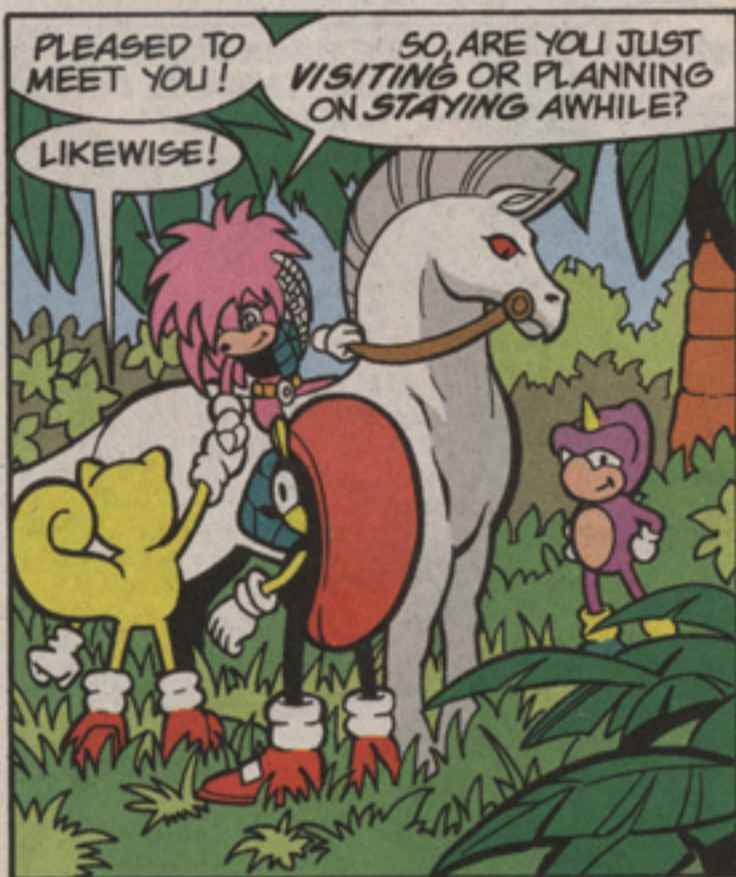
RAY--  
JULIE-SU!

H-H-HELLO!

## HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

\* SEE **KNUCKLES** #26-28  
(BACK-UP STORIES)--JFG.

Ken Penders Writes	Colleen Doran Pencils	Andrew Pepoy Inks	Barry Grossman Colors
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PLEASUED TO MEET YOU!

SO, ARE YOU JUST VISITING OR PLANNING ON STAYING AWHILE?

LIKELIKE!



M-M-MIGHTY'S THE CLOSEST THING I HAVE TO FAMILY THESE DAYS, SO HERE'S JUST AS G-G-GOOD A PLACE AS ANY!

ARE YOU THE ECHIDNA GUARDIAN OF THE ISLAND I HEARD STORIES OF?

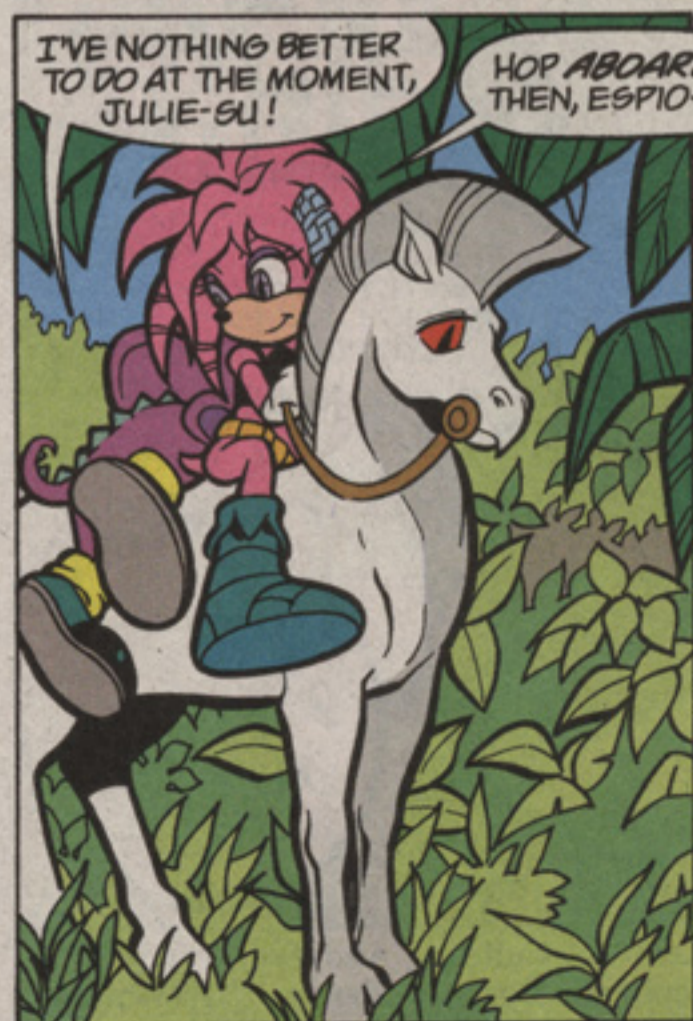


ME?! OH, NO! I'M JUST A FRIEND OF HIS!

I'M JUST ABOUT TO HEAD OUT AND SEE IF I CAN FIND HIM!

ANYONE CARE TO TAG ALONG?

I'M GETTING RAY SETTLED IN AT THE MOMENT. I WANT HIM TO CHECK OUT ECHIDNAOPOLIS--  
--BUT GIVE A HOLLER IF KNUCKLES DOESN'T TURN UP!



I'VE NOTHING BETTER TO DO AT THE MOMENT, JULIE-SU!

HOP ABOARD THEN, ESPIO--



--AND LET'S **RIDE!**

OVER AN HOUR LATER...

... EVERY NOW AND THEN, KNUCKLES JUST GOES OFF ON HIS OWN--

-- STAYING OUT OF SIGHT UNLESS SOMETHING HAPPENS!

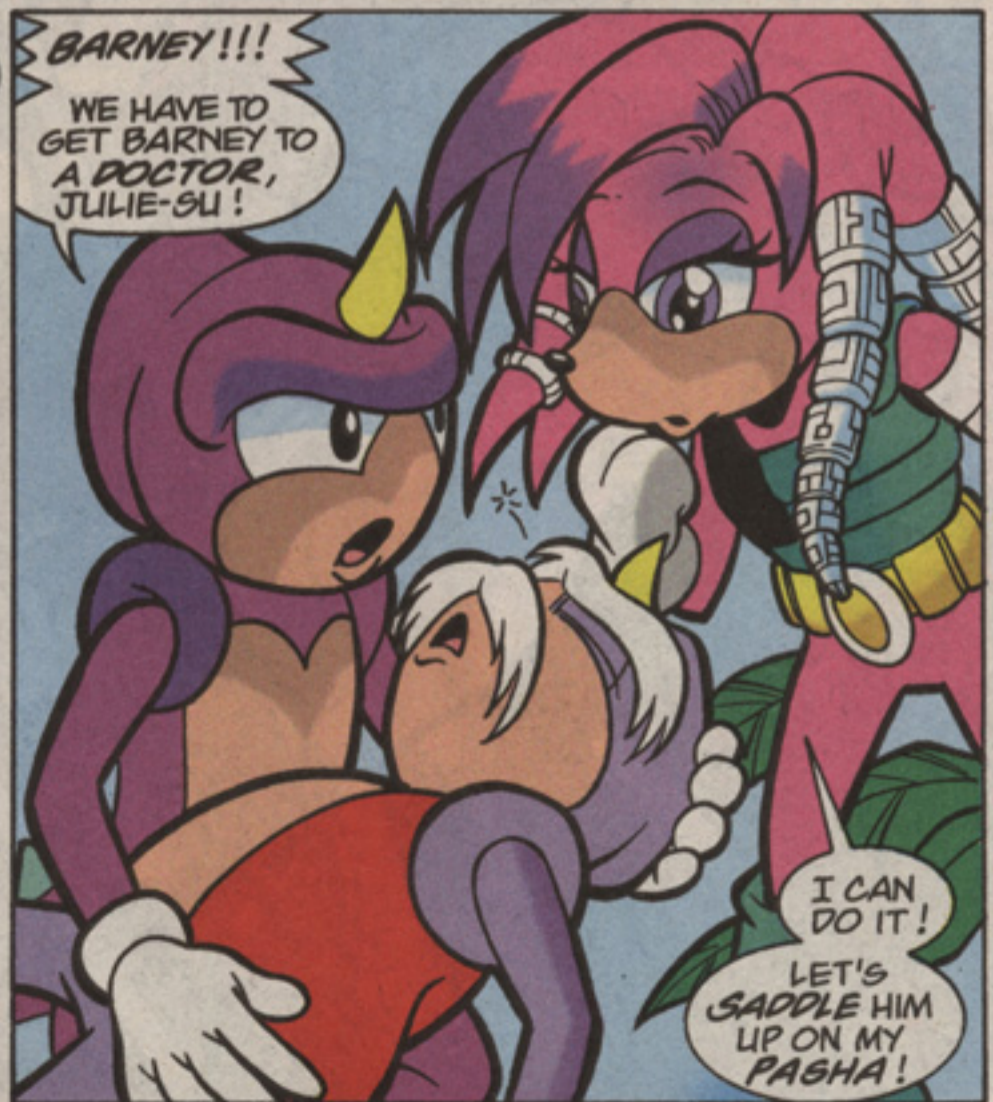
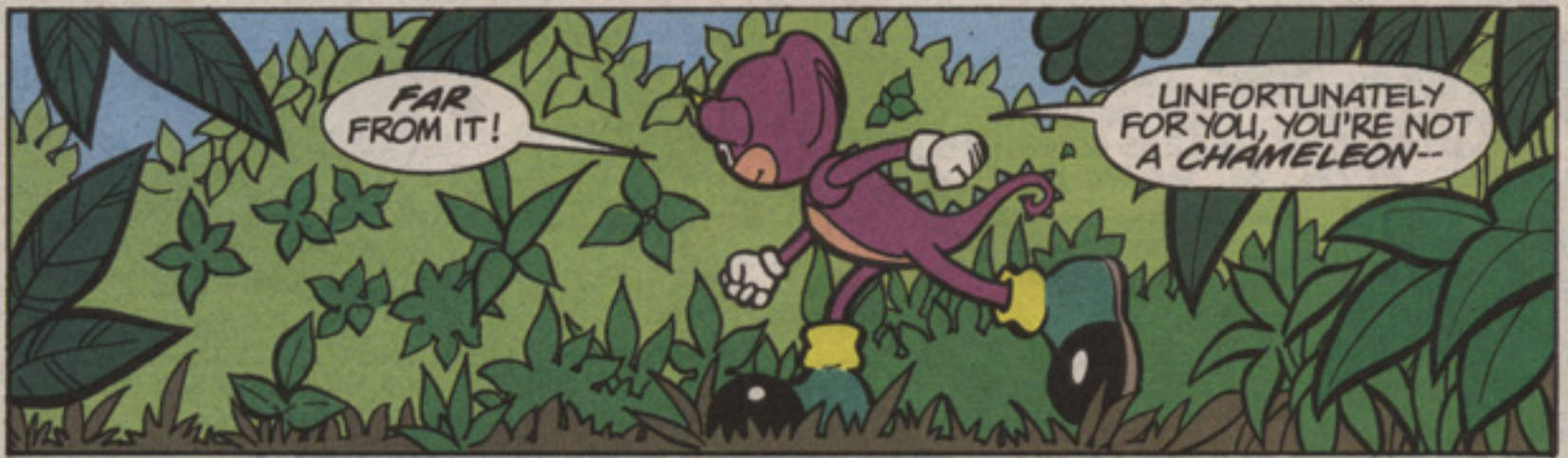
YOU'D THINK HE'D AT LEAST TELL HIS FRIENDS WHERE HE CAN BE FOUND!

HOLD IT, JULIE-SU!!!

UUGHH!

OOOF!

ESPIO!!!  
HAVE YOU GONE NUTS?!!

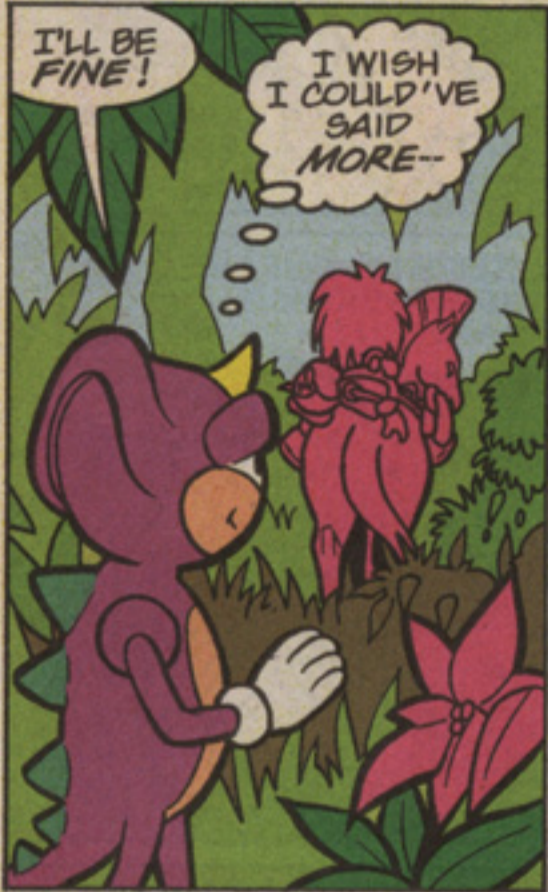




I'LL TAKE HIM DIRECTLY TO THE ECHIDNAOPOLIS MED CENTER!

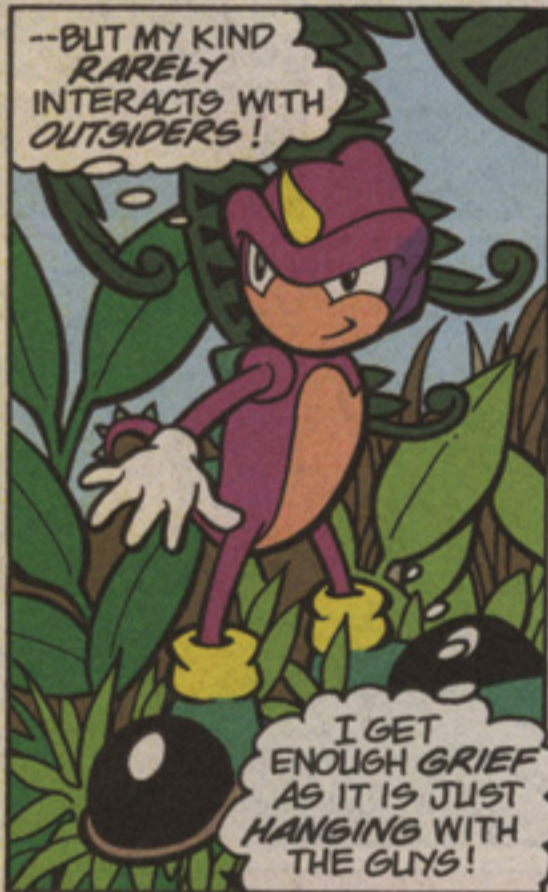
JUST BE CAREFUL, JULIE-SU!

NO PROBLEMO! YOU JUST TAKE CARE YOURSELF!



I'LL BE FINE!

I WISH I COULD'VE SAID MORE--



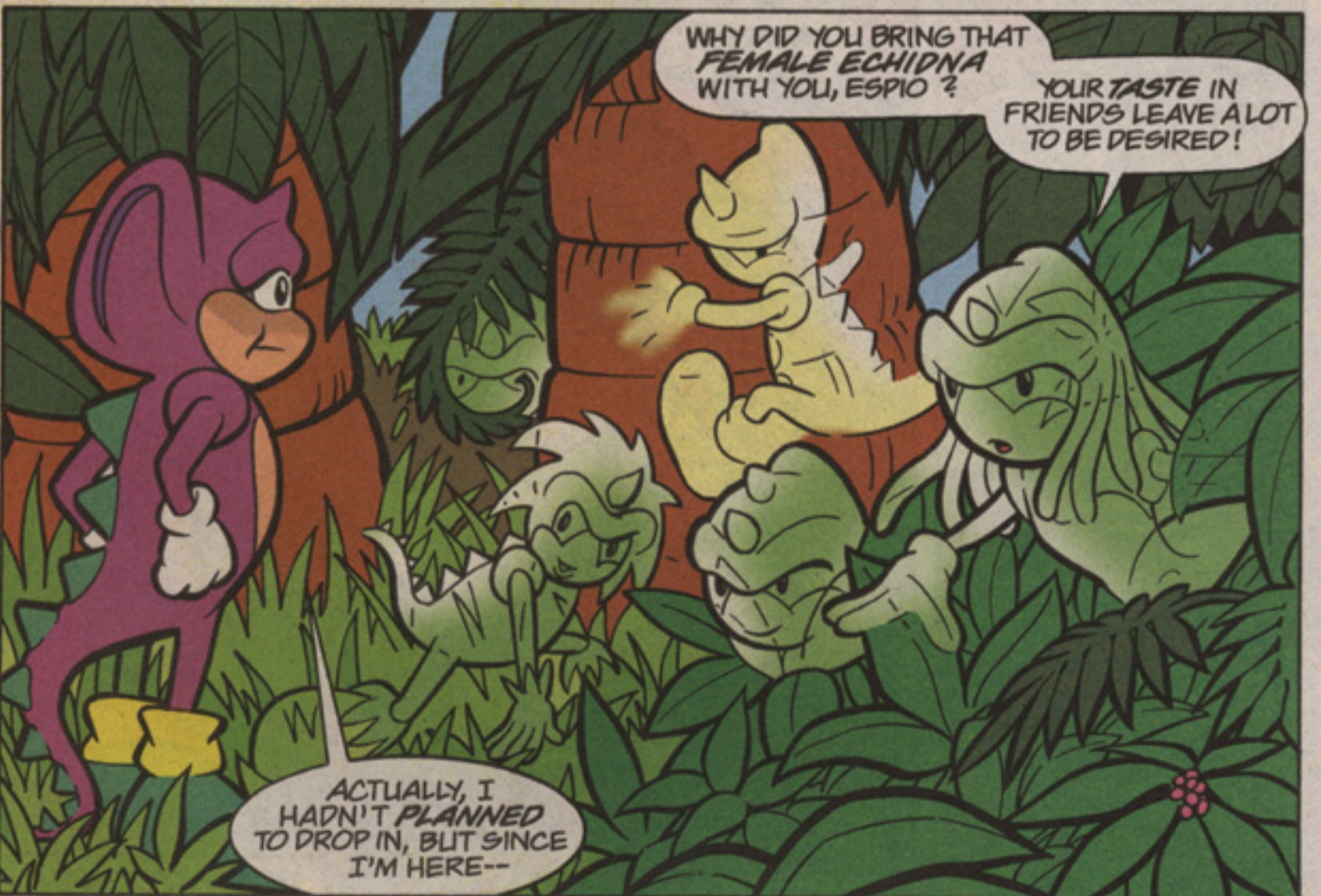
--BUT MY KIND RARELY INTERACTS WITH OUTSIDERS!

I GET ENOUGH GRIEF AS IT IS JUST HANGING WITH THE GUYS!



ALL RIGHT, GUYS! YOU CAN COME OUT!

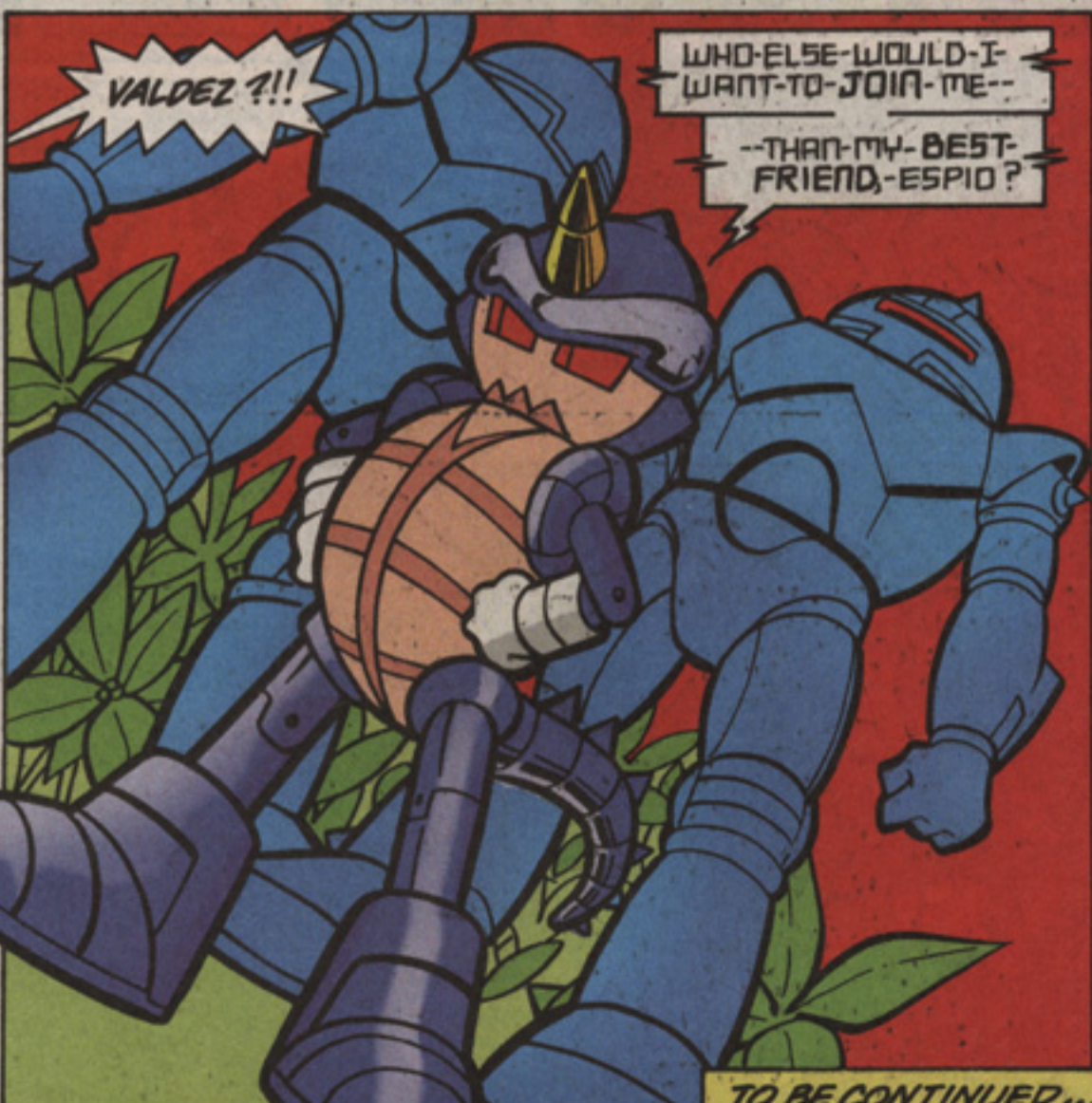
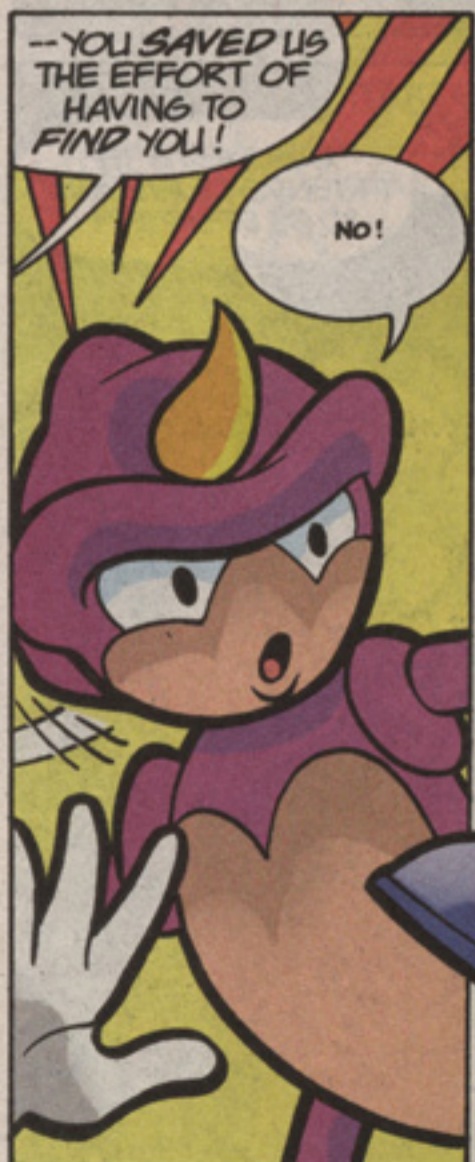
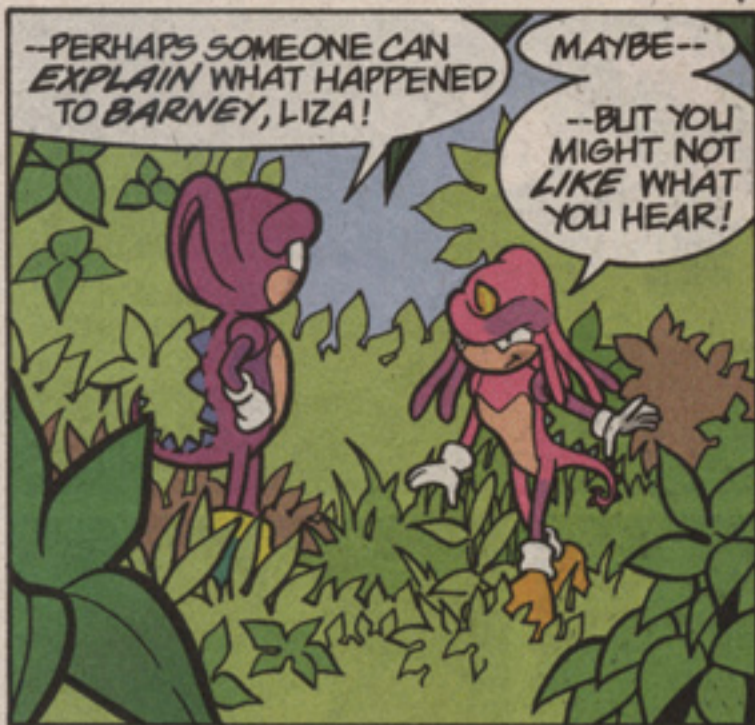
THE COAST IS CLEAR!



WHY DID YOU BRING THAT FEMALE ECHIDNA WITH YOU, ESPIO?

YOUR TASTE IN FRIENDS LEAVE A LOT TO BE DESIRED!

ACTUALLY, I HADN'T PLANNED TO DROP IN, BUT SINCE I'M HERE--



TO BE CONTINUED...





**PRO ART BY  
RAMONA FRADON  
& KEN PENDERS!  
COLOR & PIN-UP!**